



Bassingbourn Village College

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Bassingbourn Village College is a company limited by guarantee registered in

England and Wales with registered no : 7729237

Registered office: South End, Bassingbourn, Royston, Herts, SG8 5NJ

**Mr D Cooper
Principal**

**Ms V Poulter
Head of School**

23rd May 2019

To parents of current years 7, 8, 9 and 10

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Spanish exchange October 2019 and March 2020

After a very successful first Spanish exchange this academic year, we are very excited to be running the trip again this year. Last year 22 English students took part in the exchange and they felt that they had had a very rewarding experience. This is a great opportunity for your child to stay with a Spanish family, to experience at first hand Spanish culture, and very importantly to learn a great deal of spoken Spanish in a short time.

The trip is open to all students from current years 7-10, and will be especially beneficial to students already taking Spanish as a GCSE, or those considering who taking Spanish to GCSE. Therefore, these pupils will be prioritised should the trip be over-subscribed. With the new-style speaking exam, in which students are required to speak more spontaneously than previously about a variety of topics, this exchange will help enormously in both confidence and spoken Spanish, as students learn and practise every-day conversational Spanish with their families. In addition, we hope that some partnerships may last beyond this year's exchange and some long-lasting friendships can develop.

Here is some basic information:

When? We will go to Spain and stay with our host families from 3rd October until 8th October 2019. The Spanish students will come to England and stay with us at the end of February/beginning of March 2020. The dates for the second leg are to be confirmed.

We will go to Spain together, and stay with the Spanish exchange partner for around 5 days, experiencing the differences of a Spanish school, (many differences according to our students last year!) and participating in many different activities. Students will then be lucky enough to spend the weekend with their host families, speaking as much Spanish as possible with them. Last Spanish exchange, host families took their partners to do a range of wonderful activities at the weekend.

Where? The school is called Los Escolapios in Albacete, which it is a city situated near the Mediterranean cities of Valencia and Alicante and not far from Madrid. Due to the differences in school systems and a number of other factors in the Spanish school, all of the Spanish students coming to England will be in years 9/10.

How does an exchange work? There are two parts to an exchange. Firstly, pupils visit the Spanish families and stay in their homes. We will spend a day or two in a Spanish school and have some trips out, but as we are also there for a weekend, pupils will have the opportunity to spend lots of time with host families. Secondly, BVC students would each host a Spanish student for the duration of their stay in the UK next year. They will spend a day in school and will go on some trips on other days.

Exchange families – we will try very hard to match students up with like-minded exchange partners, and will ask for information about hobbies, interests, family life, etc. in order to make this process successful.

Details and cost: October 2019 – We will travel by plane to Valencia, spend the day there and then go by coach to Albacete. An approximate price of the trip will be **between £300 and £330** which will include all travel, cost of the outing in Spain, activities which we organise in Spain and activities that we will do when the Spanish students come to us, which I hope this year will include a day trip to Cambridge with the Spanish students. This cost is dependent on numbers of students going on the trip. Students may wish to take some spending money with them. We are not planning on any expensive outings while we are in Spain, apart from visiting the aquarium in Valencia on our first day.

February/ March 2020 – when the Spanish students are here in the UK, you would be expected to provide food and get them to school when necessary, and the Spanish families will do the same while we are staying with them. You will also be expected to get the Spanish students to BVC by the required time each morning, except of course the weekend.

Important information: Due to the newly updated version of Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE Sept 2018), **all adults in the household will need a Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS)**. This would be free of charge. You will need to provide the school with ID documentation in order for this check to be carried out. If you need any information about this check, please contact the school.

If you would like to take part in the exchange, please complete the attached reply slip by **Wednesday 5th June** and pay a deposit of £80 via Wisepay. If you are having problems logging into Wisepay, or need your log in details re-sent to you, please contact Mrs Smith on ssmith@bassingbournvc.net.

We think that this is a very exciting opportunity for our students. Please do not hesitate to contact me at the email address below if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Alexandra Cracknell

Teacher of MFL/ Trip Leader
acracknell@bassingbournvc.net

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Please return this slip to reception or to Miss Cracknell in the MFL department by Wednesday 5th June 2019 at the latest.

I am interested in my child participating in the Spanish exchange, my child going to Spain from 3rd to 8th October 2019 and hosting a Spanish student in February/March 2020.

I have paid £80 as a deposit for the trip through Wisepay.

Child's name: _____ Year group: _____

Signed: (parent/carer) _____ Date: _____